

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

OMB-01 /076 W

----- 103210

R 200405Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0456

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV PINT PP

SUBJ: SITTING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND SETTING OF
INDEPENDENCE DATE

1. ON MAY 19 HOUSE IS MEETING BRIEFLY, AND WILL THEN BREAK UP INTO PARTY GROUPS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. PRESS REPORTS FOURTH DRAFT NOT READY SO THIS PROCEDURE MAY BE DELAYED.
2. THE HOUSE IS SCHEDULED TO FORM ITSELF INTO A NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON MAY 23 AND DEBATE THE CONSTITUTION THROUGH JUNE 5.
3. ON JUNE 5 AND 6 THE HOUSE WILL ATTEMPT TO SET AN INDEPENDENCE DATE.
4. THE MAIN PARTIES, ACCORDING TO PRESS, BELIEVE THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER'S TIMETABLE CAN BE MET.
5. DURING THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE DEBATED AS A WHOLE, AND THEN CHAPTER BY CHAPTER, SECTION BY SECTION. IT IS HOPED, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS PRECEDING THE DEBATE WILL RESULT

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IN SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT TO ASSURE SPEEDY PASSAGE OF THE

CONSTITUTION. PRESS ALSO INDICATES JARRING NOTE THAT UNITED PARTY AND NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUPS INTEND TO RAISE CITIZENSHIP DEBATE AGAIN.

6. COMMENT: SOMARE'S TIMETABLE FOR SEPTEMBER INDEPENDENCE CAN PROBABLY SURVIVE A THREE WEEK SLIPPAGE IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE AS OUTLINED ABOVE. THERE IS REASON FOR CONCERN THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEMPT TO EXACT LAST POUND OF FLESH FROM SOMARE TO FURTHER THEIR PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND SEE THEIR VIEWPOINTS WRITTEN INTO THE CONSTITUTION. SOMARE'S DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE BY SEPTEMBER WILL BE USED AS A HOSTAGE. HIS PATIENCE, WHICH IS NOT BOTTOMLESS, WILL BE SORELY TRIED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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